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Message Text

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GENEVA FOR KRAUS ALSO
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HELSINKI FOR MPT
INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE INDOCHINA. IN-
SIDE NYTIMES HAS BEECHER, US WEIGHS NEW MISSILE AID FOR
BRITAIN; ALSO MIDDLETON, NAVY AND AIR FORCE DEBATE ATOMIC
ARMS CONTROL. SOME COMMENT ON SALT ET CETERA.

1 A. WASHPOST KAISER MOSCOW REPORTS RUSSIANTV AND NEWS-
PAPERS EXPAND THEIR CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN TO PUBLIC IM-
PROVED US- SOVIET RELATIONS.

2. WEAPONS. NYTIMES MIDDLETON NEW YORK REPORTS DEBATE
DEVELOPING IN PENTAGON BETWEEN NAVY AND AIR FORCE OVER
WHICH WILL DOMINATE US NUCLEAR ARSENAL AND WIN MAJOR SHARE
OF APPROPRIATIONS. MIDDLETON SAYS NAVY IS CHALLENGING AIR
FORCE DOMINANCE (ICBM' S AND MANNED BOMBERS) OF THREE- PART
US NUCLEAR FORCE BY PRESSING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 12 TRIDENT
SUBMARINES. MIDDLETON ADDS FEW BELIEVE DEBATE CAN BE KEPT
OUT OF CONGRESS AND MEDIA BECAUSE OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY
INVOLVED AND CONGRESSIONAL HOSTILITY TO EXCESSIVE SPENDING

IS TOO PRONOUNCED.

2 A. NYTIMES BEECHER WASHINGTON REPORTS US OFFICIALS
STUDYING ALTERNATIVE COURSES FOR MODERNIZING BRITAIN' S
AGING ARSENAL OF SUBMARINE- BASED MISSILES TO BETTER ENABLE
THEM TO PENETRATE SOVIET DEFENSES. ISSUE OF MODERNIZATION,
ACCORDING TO STATE AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS WAS RAISED DURING
HEATH VISIT HERE. BEECHER SAYS THREE COURSES STUDIED,
ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS, ARE: 1, PROVIDE
TECHNICAL ADVICE TO HELP BRITAIN DEVELOP MIRV' S FOR
POLARIS MISSILES; 2, SELL THE BRITISH THE POSEIDON MISSILE
AND ASSIST IN DESIGNING MIRV WARHEAD; 3, SELL BRITAIN
LONGER RANGE TRIDENT-1 MISSILE AND HELP DEVELOP MIRV FOR
THAT WEAPON.

3. COMMENT. WASHPOST EDITORIALIZES ON REMAKING ARMS CON-
TROL AGENCY AND EMPHASIZES ITS CONCLUSION PRESIDENT DOES
NOT HAVE AN OEO- LIKE FATE IN MIND FOR ACDA. NOTING SEPA-
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RATION OF NEGOTIATING FUNCTION FROM DIRECTORSHIP OF ACDA,
EDITORIAL HOLDS AGENCY MAY ACTUALLY EMERGE WITH ENHANCED
ROLE AS A FORMULATOR AND CHALLENGER OF ARMS CONTROL IDEAS
AND AS PRODUCER OF ANALYSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE
MORE IMPACT THAN ACDA STUDIES DID IN THEPAST. EDITORIAL
APPROVINGLY NOTES SOME CONCLUSIONS FROM IKLE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ARTICLE AND STRESSES FOR PRESENT IT IS ENOUGH TO
KNOW PRESIDENT HAS CHOSEN AN EMINENTLY QUALIFIED MAN TO
THINK ABOUT ARMS CONTROL FOR HIM.

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3 A. MONDAY WASHSTAR HAD MILTON VIORST COLUMN ENTITLED, THE GRIM SALT PARADOX, VIORST SAYING ARMS CONTROL EXPERTS HAVE STARTED TO WORRY THAT SALT TWO MAY ACTUALLY HEAT UP, RATHER THAN COOL OFF, THE SOVIET- AMERICAN ARMS RACE, CITING MILITARY BUDGET WHICH IS BASED ON BARGAINING CHIP THEORY AND WHICH IS LOADED UP WITH A VARIETY OF NEW STRATEGIC ARMS SYSTEMS-- VIRTUALLY ALL OF THEM QUESTION-ABLE UTILITY TO NATIONAL SECURITY, MENTIONING A MOBILE ICBM AND NEW SYSTEM TO PROVIDE EXTRA MARGIN OF ALARM AGAINST SUBMARINE- LAUNCHED MISSILE BUT WHICH WOULD BE OF IMPORTANCE ONLY IF ATTACHED TO AN ABM SYSTEM AND WE AGREED UNDER SALT ONE TO BUILD NO SUCH NETWORK. VIORST HOLDS ANY NEW STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEM WOULD BE SUPERFLUOUS SINCE BOTH SIDES HAVE OVERKILL. VIORST ASSERTS ONE OF UNANSWERED QUESTION IS WHY PRESIDENT BROKE UP LAST YEAR' S WINNING TEAM AT SALT ONE, REPLACING VETERAN SMITH WITH JOHNSON, WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT HIGHLY TECHNICAL SUBJECT OF DISARMAMENT, AND SINCE JOHNSON MUST ASSEMBLE A NEW STAFF ONE MUST ASSUME THAT MONTHS WILL PASS BEFORE HE IS IN POSITION TO START ANY SERIOUS BARGAINING. THE EXPERTS CONCLUDE FROM THIS, SAYS VIORST, THAT PRESIDENT HAS

DECIDED NOT TO CAPITALIZE ON THE MOMENTUM GENERATED BY SALT ONE, AND MAYBE HE IS UNSURE WHAT AMERICAN DISARMAMENT GOALS NOW OUGHT TO BE, ALSO MAYBE HE WANTS ANY AGREEMENTS TO COME NEARER TO 1976 ELECTION; ANYHOW HE SEEMS DETERMINED TO SLOW DOWN THE PACE OF THE TALKS. THIS MEANS, SAYS VIORST, BARGAINING CHIPS WILL BE SEVERAL YEARS OLDER AND IT IS AN IMMUTABLE PENTAGON LAW THAT AS ARMS PROGRAMS GET OLDER THEY GET MORE EXPENSIVE, SO EXPERTS ARE FEARFUL IF WE GET A SALT TWO AGREEMENT A FEW YEARS HENCE IT WILL BE ONLY AFTER BILLIONS MORE HAVE BEEN WASTED AND GLOBAL
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SECURITY SERIOUSLY ERODED.

3 B. NEWSDAY EDITORIAL LAST WEEK WAS DEVOTED TO SALT SLOW-DOWN, HOLDING US POSITION ON DISARMAMENT HAS CHANGED AND THAT PRESIDENT, WHO LAST YEAR BRUSHED ASIDE ALLEGATIONS US HAD GIVEN AWAY TOO MUCH TO RUSSIANS, NOW TAKES A MUCH TOUGHER STANCE AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT NEW SALT TEAM' S ASSIGNMENT IS NOT TO SCORE MORE BREAKTHROUGHS ON DISARMAMENT BUT TO WIN BACK SOME OF THE CONCESSIONS GRANTED UNDER SALT ONE. NEWSDAY HOLDS REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SALT ONE IS THAT BOTH SIDES GAVE A LITTLE, FOR FIRST TIME IN NUCLEAR AGE. US PROBABLY GAVE A LITTLE MORE, BUT BOTH SIDES STILL MAINTAIN ENOUGH WEAPONRY TO DESTROY EACH OTHER 20 TIMES OVER. NEWSDAY MAINTAINS PRICE OF BARGAINING CHIPS IS TOO HIGH FOR AMERICAN TAXPAYER TO BEAR, ADDING THAT A SALT TWO AGREEMENT THAT IGNORES THE DISARMAMENT GOAL AND

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CONCENTRATES INSTEAD ON ALLOWING BOTH SIDES TO CONTINUE THE WEAPONS SPIRAL WOULD FALL FAR SHORT OF WHAT THE WORLD EXPECTS AND DESERVES.

4. TROOPS COMMENT. KANSAS CITY TIMES END OF MARCH EDITORIALLY SAID NIXON SPOKE CONVINCINGLY OF THE DANGERS OF A POSTURE OF UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT IN THE FORTHCOMING MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, EDITORIAL ADDING THIS IS A TIME NOT TO WEAKEN NATION' S NEGOTIATING POSITION.

4 A. HOUSTON POST ABOUT SAME TIME HAD EDITORIAL, MILITARY LUXURY?, MAINTAINING THAT USE OF AMERICAN TROOPS ABROAD TO DISPLAY A US PRESENCE IS BECOMING A LUXURY WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD, BUT CONTENDING THAT BY REDUCING US FORCES AND BASES IN ASIA AREA, OUR NATO COMMITMENT IN EUROPE WOULD BE LESS BURDENSOME. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD LIKE NATO COSTS TO BE SHARED MORE EQUITABLY, STRONG SUPPORT OF A DETERRENT FORCE IN THAT AREA IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE, SAID POST, BUT LEVEL OF TROOP STRENGTH IS EXCESSIVE IN KOREA THAILAND TAIWAN AND PHILIPPINES. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES CUTBACK RECOMMENDATIONS BY SENATE DEMOCRATS DESERVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. ROGERS

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